

Summary

On March 11, 2003 at approximately 6:30 p.m., a 22-year –old refuse truck driver was killed when he was crushed between his truck and a dumpster container. The victim was a longtime employee of the company and had driven the truck for about 21 months.

The vehicle, a 3-axle Peterbuilt garbage truck, was equipped with forks and lifting device in front that slides through openings in the containers. The containers are lifted over the cab and the contents are dumped into the back of the vehicle.

The victim drove the vehicle up to a dumpster full of cardboard and got out to see how full it was. As the victim was looking into the dumpster, the truck rolled forward and pinned him between the bumper and the dumpster. It appears that the truck's brakes may not have been set.

Recommendations

- The employer is required to develop and enforces the use of safe procedures for loading and unloading of trucks and trailers.

WAC 296-24-233 Motor vehicle trucks and trailers (6), "Safe methods of loading and unloading motor vehicle trucks and trailers shall be observed at all times."

- The employer is required to maintain their vehicles. Regular vehicle inspections and schedule maintenance along with a method for timely repair will help the employer in compliance.

WAC 296-24-233 Motor vehicle trucks and trailers (10), "All parts and accessories of trucks and trailers shall be kept in good repair and safe condition. Tires worn beyond the point of safety shall not be used."